

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of allocating storage in a computer network, said method comprising:

5 initiating a storage re-allocation procedure in said computer network, wherein said re-allocation procedure is configured to re-allocate a first storage from a first host in said computer network to a second host in said computer network;

10 determining whether I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress; and

halting said re-allocation procedure in response to detecting I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing an indication to a user said re-allocation procedure is halted, in response to said halting;

20 detecting said I/O is complete and no further I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress; and

providing an indication to a user that no I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress, in response to said detecting.

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3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

unmounting said first host from said first storage and configuring said first host to bypass mounting said first storage upon a subsequent reboot; and

completing said re-allocation procedure.

- 5           4. The method of claim 3, further comprising unmounting a third host from said first storage and configuring said third host to bypass mounting said first storage upon a subsequent reboot, in response to detecting said third host is mounted on said first storage.
- 10          5. The method of claim 1, wherein said first host and said second host utilize incompatible file systems, and wherein said computer network comprises a storage area network.
- 15          6. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress comprises utilizing system commands to determine whether any processes have reads or writes in progress to said first storage.
- 20          7. The method of claim 3, wherein configuring said first host to bypass mounting said first storage comprises editing a table corresponding to file systems which are mounted upon boot.
8. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an opportunity to backup said first storage prior to completing said re-allocation procedure.
- 25          9. The method of claim 8, further comprising de-coupling remaining logical units from said first storage subsequent to said unmounting said first storage and prior to completing said re-allocation procedure.
10. A computer network comprising:

a first storage device;

a network interconnect coupled to said first storage device;

5 a first host coupled to said network interconnect;

a second host coupled to said interconnect, wherein said second host includes a re-allocation mechanism configured to:

10 initiate a storage re-allocation procedure corresponding to said first storage device,  
determine whether I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress, and  
halt said re-allocation procedure in response to detecting I/O  
15 corresponding to said first storage is in progress.

11. The computer network of claim 10, wherein said re-allocation mechanism is further configured to:

20 provide an indication to a user said re-allocation procedure is halted, in response to said halting;

detect said I/O is complete and no further I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress; and

25 provide an indication to a user that no I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress, in response to said detecting.

12. The computer network of claim 11, wherein said first storage device is allocated to said first host, and wherein said mechanism is further configured to:

unmount said first host from storage corresponding to said first storage device;

configure said first host to bypass mounting said storage upon a subsequent reboot; and

complete said re-allocation procedure.

13. The computer network of claim 12, wherein said mechanism is further configured to unmount a third host from said storage and configure said third host to bypass mounting said storage upon a subsequent reboot, in response to detecting said third host is mounted on said storage.

14. The computer network of claim 10, wherein said first host and said second host utilize incompatible file systems, and wherein said first storage is re-allocated from said first host to said second host.

15. The computer network of claim 10, determining whether I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress comprises utilizing system commands to determine whether any processes have reads or writes in progress to said first storage device.

16. The computer network of claim 12, wherein said re-allocation mechanism is further configured to provide an opportunity to backup said first storage prior to completing said re-allocation procedure.

17. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein said program instructions are executable to:

initiate a storage re-allocation procedure in a computer network, wherein said re-allocation procedure is configured to re-allocate a first storage from a first host in said computer network to a second host in said computer network;

determine whether I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress; and

halt said re-allocation procedure in response to detecting I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress.

18. The carrier medium of claim 17, wherein said program instructions are further executable to:

provide an indication to a user said re-allocation procedure is halted, in response to said halting;

detect said I/O is complete and no further I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress; and

provide an indication to a user that no I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress, in response to said detecting.

19. The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein said program instructions are further executable to:

unmount said first host from said first storage and configure said first host to bypass mounting said first storage upon a subsequent reboot; and

complete said re-allocation procedure.

5 20. The carrier medium of claim 19, wherein said program instructions are further executable to unmount a third host from said first storage and configure said third host to bypass mounting said first storage upon a subsequent reboot, in response to detecting said third host is mounted on said first storage.

10 21. The carrier medium of claim 17, wherein said first host and said second host utilize incompatible file systems and said computer network comprises a storage area network.

15 22. The carrier medium of claim 17, wherein determining whether I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress comprises utilizing system commands to determine whether any processes have reads or writes in progress to said first storage.

20 23. The carrier medium of claim 19, wherein configuring said first host is to bypass mounting said first storage comprises editing a table corresponding to file systems which are mounted at boot, wherein said table is stored on said first host.

24. A computing node comprising:

a memory; and

25 a re-allocation unit coupled to said memory, wherein said re-allocation unit is configured to:  
initiate a storage re-allocation procedure, wherein said re-allocation procedure is configured to re-allocate a first storage of a computer

network from a first host of said network to a second host of said network,

5                   determine whether I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress, and

halt said re-allocation procedure in response to detecting I/O corresponding to said first storage is in progress.

10           25. The computing node of claim 24, wherein said re-allocation unit is further configured to:

provide an indication to a user said re-allocation procedure is halted, in response to said halting;

15           detect said I/O is complete and no further I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress; and

20           provide an indication to a user that no I/O corresponding to said first storage device is in progress, in response to said detecting.

26. The computing node of claim 25, wherein said re-allocation unit is further configured to:

25           unmount said first host from storage corresponding to said first storage device;

configure said first host to bypass mounting said storage upon a subsequent reboot; and

complete said re-allocation procedure.

27. The computing node of claim 24, wherein said re-allocation mechanism  
comprises a processor executing operating system software, and wherein said re-  
allocation procedure comprises a native function of said operating system.

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